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AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK DIGEST

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If rapid buildup underway in broiler hatching-egg supply flocks continues, prolonged price-depressing expansion in broiler production is likely this winter. Pullet chick additions to flocks were up from 1962 by 22 percent in April, 40 percent in May, 37 percent in June. Prospect: 10 percent more layers in these flocks by November than year earlier.

Buildup will make output reduction difficult when prices start dropping. In past, production kept building several months after price downturn, as new layer additions continued from previous pullet placements.

Third quarter broiler slaughter likely will be 5 to 10 percent greater than year earlier. Prices are expected to go somewhat lower in third quarter than year-earlier average of 15.6 cents a pound.

LIVESTOCK: Third quarter fed-cattle marketings likely will be about 9 percent larger in 28 major feeding States than year earlier and nearly equal to second quarter. Prices may hold near July level, then rise somewhat in fourth quarter.

Fall hog prices: Only a modest seasonal drop likely, with low point about like last year. But if fall farrowing plans are carried out--1 percent more than last fall--and beef supplies continue plentiful, price this winter may drop nearly to last winter's low.

Second half lamb prices probably will follow year-earlier pattern and average about same or a little higher.

DAIRY: Second half milk production may be close to last half of 1962...only seasonal price rise is expected. Output of manufactured milk products likely will be somewhat lower than year earlier; this and improved commercial demand may drop USDA purchases in second half below 2.4 billion pounds milk equivalent a year earlier.

POULTRY AND EGGS: Egg prices have been rising seasonally because of declining production, are about high for the year. Second half prices and production likely will differ little from year earlier.

Turkey supplies and prices may be about same as year earlier during last 4 months of 1963...but per capita consumption for year likely will drop to 6.8 pounds (ready-to-cook weight) from 7.1 last year.

FEED GRAINS: Supply in 1963-64 is estimated at about 210 million tons, down slightly from year earlier. Production in 1963 is expected to be up from 1962...carryover into 1963-64 expected down. And 1963-64 disappearance may increase from current level as livestock numbers keep climbing. So moderate reduction in carryover is expected in 1963-64 from 61 million tons at beginning of year.

If crop prospects stay favorable, prices next 2 or 3 months probably will decline seasonally, then may average near 1962-63 next fall and winter.

WHEAT: Crop in 1963 may be down about 9 percent from 1957-61 average. Price likely will be near \$1.82 national average loan rate. Participants in 1963 voluntary acreage diversion program also will get direct payment of 18 cents a bushel on their normal production.

Carryover on July 1 next year may be smallest since same date in 1958...would be third straight reduction in carryover stocks.

SOYBEANS: Demand continues strong, supplies will tend to tighten before new-crop beans are available about mid-September. Crushings and exports probably set new highs during 1962-63 year. Farm prices expected strong through summer, about 10 percent higher than last summer. Carryover of old-crop beans October 1 may be only 15 million bushels--just a week's crushing and export needs.

COTTON: Carryover August 1 is estimated at 11.1 million bales, largest since 1957. Reflects big drop in disappearance from year earlier and large 1962 crop. Acreage planted for 1963 crop is estimated down 9 percent from last year. Disappearance in 1963-64 likely will increase 2.1 million bales from year earlier, as pickup is anticipated in mill consumption and exports.

WOOL: U. S. production of shorn wool in 1963 is estimated at 241.2 million pounds, grease basis. This is 3 percent less than in 1962 and 5 percent below the 1957-61 average. Estimated number of sheep shorn in 1963 is 28.4 million head, 4 percent less than last year. Expected average fleece weight: 8.50 pounds, compared with 8.43 in 1962.

TOBACCO: Production this year is estimated at 2,222 million pounds, 4 percent less than last year...flue-cured down 5 percent and burley slightly less. But burley supplies October 1 probably will be largest ever.

VEGETABLES: All important fresh supplies except carrots and celery will be down from year earlier in next 4 to 6 weeks, while farm and retail prices probably will be higher. Adequate potato supplies are expected through summer, and acreage for fall harvest is only slightly under last year. Sweetpotato prices probably will average substantially higher next winter than a year earlier, due to a smaller 1963 crop.

FRUIT: Smaller supplies, higher prices of fresh and processed fruits than year earlier are expected through summer and early fall. Here's why: Smaller deciduous crop being harvested, reduced 1963-64 Florida citrus crop expected, decreased stocks of processed goods, and continuing strong demand.